

EPA ID: NJD055935902 Site Name: KLEINER METAL SPECIALTIES, INC

State ID:

Alias Site Names:

City: SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Refer to Report Dated: 9/23/2009

County or Parrish: MIDDLESEX

State: NJ

Report Developed By:

Report Type: EXPANDED SITE INSPECTION 001

☐ 1. Further Remedial Site Assessment Under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:

☒ 2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA:

Recommended for HRS Scoring

Discussion/Rationale:

The 2.5-acre Kleiner Metal Specialties (KMS) site is located at 4315 New Brunswick Avenue in South Plainfield, Middlesex County; New Jersey. The site is bordered by a shopping mall to the northwest, an auto repair facility to the northeast, a gas station and an automotive paint distributor to the southwest, and a construction company to the southeast. South of the site, on property formerly occupied by Kleiner Metal Specialties (KMS) and its successor, Edison Stamping and Manufacturing, is a marble company. NJDEP is presently investigating the property under the site name Edison Stamping and Manufacturing (NJD061056198).

The KMS site is comprised of a one-story, 27000 sf building and surrounding property used for the metal parts manufacturing operations of KMS from 1967 to approximately 2005. NJDEP began investigating the site after VOCs were detected in nearby residential wells.

In the 1980s and early 1990s, NJDEP conducted sampling of private wells in the Franklin Street (Nova Ukraine) area after tetrachloroethene (PCE) was detected in several wells beginning in 1982. The Franklin Street area is a small neighborhood of roughly 60 homes located 500 feet southwest of the KMS site. In 1990, PCE was detected in 46 wells in concentrations as high as 1400 ppb. In the fall of 1990, residents were connected to the municipal water supply, although some residents may have chosen to remain unconnected.

KMS used PCE at the site from 1967 to 1986, when it replaced PCE with 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). Other degreasers later used were methylene chloride and n-propyl bromide. Degreasers were stored in above-ground storage tanks. Between 1967 and 1980, KMS disposed of industrial waste in a septic system which consisted of three septic tanks and a leach field. Contamination of groundwater is suspected to have occurred as a result of this disposal process.

In 2000 Environmental Strategies Corporation (ESC) conducted a soil investigation on behalf of Kleiner Metal Specialties, in compliance with a NJ Industrial Site Recovery Act (ISRA) closure requirement. Samples were taken from the location of former leach fields. PCE was detected in one sample at a concentration of 98 ppb. Since this was below the NJDEP cleanup criteria of 1000 ppb, no further action was required. In 2002, NJDEP issued a No Further Action notice to Uniform Tubes, Inc., the then-occupier of the site and an affiliate of Kleiner Metal Specialties, based on the soil data and other information submitted by ESC.

In February 2009, as part of its investigation for the source of the Franklin Street groundwater contamination, NJDEP took soil samples at the site. PCE was detected in one soil sample from the location of the leach fields at a concentration of 170 ppb (NJDEP soil criteria 1000 ppb).

In March and September of 2009 NJDEP took groundwater samples at the KMS site as well as the adjacent ESM site. Groundwater sampling in the area of the KMS leach fields indicated the presence of PCE (in concentrations of 5200 ppb), trichloroethene (TCE, at 620 ppb) and vinyl chloride (27 ppb), all in excess of EPA Level I standards. Groundwater sampling at one location on the ESM site showed high concentrations of PCE (4899 ppb) and vinyl chloride (280 ppb). Both samples mentioned were over 3 times background levels.

Although a 1991 study concluded that the groundwater flow was southward with a westward component, uncertainties remained at the time. Additional data is needed to more accurately characterize the direction of groundwater flow.

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There are 40 active public supply wells within 4 miles of the site, serving an estimated 126,171 persons. The site warrants a designation of High Priority for further action under CERCLA, based on the potential groundwater threat.

Site Decision Made by: JAN HAGIWARA

Signature: Jan Hagiwara

Date: 04/08/2010